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## MESSAGES FROM THE MARSH

*The E-Newsletter of the MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey*  
**August 2006**

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### **EDUCATION NEWS:2006/2007 School Program Registration**



Next month starts the 2006/2007 school year here at the Center. We wanted to take this time - pre school year to remind educators and administrators of the way in which to register for MEC School Programs. Registration is on-line. We will not be taking registration by phone.

Registration will open Friday September 8th.

Trips are scheduled on a first come first served basis. Before logging on, please have with you:

- Your program date
- An alternate date
- Program choice(s)
- Names of teachers coming on the trip with you
- Number of students
- Grade/ability level

[To register on-line starting Sept. 8th](#)

### **MarshAccess**

As part of our mission to work with Meadowlands district and other community based

organizations (*serving individuals with disabilities*) to create new programs at the MEC, incorporating specialized adaptations and assistive technologies that would allow these individuals to participate, the following groups recently attended programs at the MEC:

### **South Bergen Jointure Commission**

#### **Bergen County Special Services**

Transitions Program

**Ages:** 18-21

**Location:** Wood-Ridge, Bergen County

**Note:** Students (21) and Teachers (16) received training and orientation to the facility and staff in preparation for fall courses to be held at the Center

#### **Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute: Monthly Seminar**

##### **Thursday, August 17th**

Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce

August Membership Meeting

8:00-10:00 am

Meadowlands Environment Center

Featured Speaker - Joe Porrovecchio of SMRI

Prospective members welcome, please contact Judy

Ross at the Chamber for additional information -

(201) 939-0707.



##### **Thursday, August 17th**

Sustainable Energy and Electrical Protection

11:00-1:00 pm

Meadowlands Environment Center

Presenter - Andrew Topinka, CMPR

This two hour workshop will examine ways to decrease operating costs in our existing power distribution system, evaluate power for renewable energy and the environmental impact of inefficient power.

No fee to attend, Pre-registration required.

To register for the seminar: Michelle.Spataro@njmeadowlands.gov or 201- 777-2413

#### **MVP: Meadowlands Volunteer Program Announces Docent Program**



**New Jersey**

##### **Meadowlands Commission**

The Meadowlands Environment Center offers a new program for high school students. This program provides you with real world, hands-on learning experiences when you assist our educators in the implementation of [school programs](#).

The docent program is open to high school students (ages 14-18) who successfully complete the required training and agree to fulfill a minimum of 32 hours per season\*.

A few exciting opportunities for our docents are; assisting with the educational programs, interpretive guides for the [Interactive Learning Center](#) and [DeKorte Park trail guides](#).

The training is comprised of a training course consisting of two half-day in-house training sessions. All docents are required to attend both sessions. These sessions will be offered on Sunday, September 24th & Saturday, September 30th.

Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon successful completion of an interview and the training course.

If you are interested in becoming a Meadowlands Environment Center Docent, please

contact the program coordinator Michelle Spataro via phone (201- 777-2413) or email [michelle.spataro@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:michelle.spataro@njmeadowlands.gov).

*\*Docent Volunteer Seasons: I- February through May, II- June through August, III- September through December*

### Programs for Kids: August Summer Camps in the Meadowlands

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During the month of August, kids from ages 6 to 13 will take part in the third annual Summer Camp in the Meadowlands. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Meadowlands Environment Center offers environmentally themed week-long summer programs, each designed to explore the estuaries of the Hackensack River.



#### Marsh Explorers

When: August 7-11  
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Ages: Entering Grades 1 & 2  
Cost: \$100 per child

#### Hopping Through Habitats

When: August 7-11  
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Ages: Entering Grades 3 & 4  
Cost: \$150 per child

#### Upstream, Downstream

When: August 14-18  
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Ages: Entering Grades 5 & 6  
Cost: \$150 per child

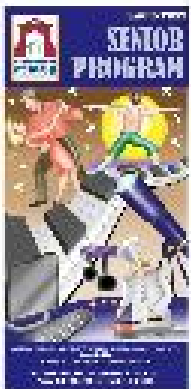
#### Water, Water Everywhere

When: August 14-18  
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Ages: Entering Grades 7 & 8  
Cost: \$150 per child

[For detailed summer camp information, please click here.](#)

### Programs for Older Adults: July Events

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Every Tuesday, starting in June and ending in September, afternoon or evening programs are scheduled that will intrigue, energize and revitalize your spirit.

All programs are free of charge, thanks to a supporting grant from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.

*Some August programs have reached capacity, please inquire about our waiting list.*

#### Programs offered this month:

##### Digital Storytelling

When: Tuesday, August 1

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

### Heartspace Yoga

When: Tuesday, August 8

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

### Secrets of the Night Sky

When: Tuesday, August 15

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

### 4 Plus 2 Musical Group

When: Tuesday, August 22

Time: 12:00-2:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

### Art of the Masters: Calder

When: Tuesday, August 29

Time: 12:00-2:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

[For detailed information on and to register online for the Summer Senior Series, please click here](#)

### MEC Network: Nature Program Cooperative

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#### August NPC Event

#### Summer Discovery Walk

Hosted by: Demarest Nature Center & the Tenaflly Nature Center

Location: Demarest Nature Center

When: Sunday, August 20, 2006 *rain date Sunday, August 27, 2006*

Time: 1 - 3:00pm

General Cost: \$5

Member Cost: Free

Note: Pre-Registration required. Participants must dress appropriately for conditions and wear proper footwear.



Reservations: 201-568-6093 or [tenafllynaturecenter.org](http://tenafllynaturecenter.org)

Enjoy a leisurely walk through the trails of the Demarest Nature Center in search of seasonal treasures. Join Tenaflly Nature Center's Education Director Debora Davidson as she explores the Demarest Nature Center and its over 55 acres of preserved habitat. Participants must dress appropriately for the conditions and wear proper footwear. Pre-registration required.

[To learn more about the Nature Program Cooperative and these programs, please click here](#)

### NJMC Searches for New Local Artists

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Two future exhibits at the Flyway Gallery will be open to local talent.

Exhibit One - residents within the 14-town Meadowlands District.

Exhibit Two - arts faculty of area high schools and colleges.

[For more information](#)

## NJMC: Boat Cruises in August

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### Available Dates

August 9, 10, 11  
 August 12 - - *this Saturday morning trip departs at 8:00am*  
 August 14 & 15  
 August 30 & 31 - *these evening trips at 5:00pm*

*Departing at 5:30 (unless otherwise noted) from the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt.*



The suggested minimum donation is \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, please call (201) 460-4640. Special cruises are available for educational, civic and other groups. All boats are fully equipped and piloted by Coast Guard qualified captains.

[For more information on the NJMC pontoon boat program, please click here...](#)

## NJMC: Canoe Trip in August

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### Saturday, August 19th

10:00 am

*Launching at Saw Mill Creek, Lyndhurst or Mill Creek, Secaucus - please specify*

We supply all the equipment and give you helpful tips before setting out on the water.

Canoes are provided at a cost of \$15 per person. Pre- registration is required. Groups are welcome. For more information or to book a tour, please call (201) 460-4640.

[To learn more about the NJMC canoe program, please click here](#)

## Quick Links...

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- [MEC Website](#)
- [MEC Schedule of Events Registration](#)
- [MEC School Program Registration](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
- [Meadowlands Conservation Trust](#)

## Lara Rodriguez

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email: [lara.rodriquez@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:lara.rodriquez@njmeadowlands.gov)

phone: 201-460-4608

web: <http://njmeadowlands.gov/ec>

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